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radius touching B D as shown by arc, shift to A, Fig. 1, and intersect at V, then V and M show bevels for upper and lower ends of wreath respectively. V W equals V; extend to cut W, Fig. 1, and W, Fig. 2 is set one half width of rail away from S V. Now, put in curves, which will be readily understood, as O Q, O R, Fig. 1, are the focal radii to get points for pins for smaller curve, and O L, O K the focal radii for large curve pins.

Correspondence.

WE invite communications from our readers in matters connected with the trades we represent. Be brief, courteous, and to the point.

Editor of the Wood-Worker:

SOME time ago I sent a query to the WOOD-WORKER asking if any one of its readers had been able to execute a wreath as laid down in Plate 10 of Mr. Gould's book, the "American Stairbuilder's Guide." Answer No. 43 in August number of the WOOD-WORKER has opened the way for exposing the utter worthlessness of the book. I send you by this mail a drawing of the correct solution of the problem Mr. Gould has so befogged in his book. I look upon the "American Stairbuilder's Guide" as a cruel imposition on the novice into whose hands it might fall, and I rejoice to know that there is a means of showing up this humbug work through the columns of the WOOD-WORKER, and thus prevent many young workmen from being victimized through the errors that abound all through the work. I find that, with the single exception of Plate 2, and where the elevation tangents have the same pitch, not one of the elliptical curves are correct, and so great is the variation that at Plates 3 and 5 the centres, *c* of Fig. 3, should be respectively $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 inches (!) removed toward the assumed focal points 3. But this error of putting in the curves might be passed over, as it would not entail a loss of labor on the wreaths, other things being correct; the more serious error, however, of taking the wrong bevels, which would entail a great loss of labor and material, cannot be so easily condoned. On Plate 21 a wrong bevel is given for Fig. 3, so also at Plates 22 and 29, and the false bevels given are of such a nature as to lead to disappointment, confusion, and loss. Let any stairbuilder examine Plate 14, where the bevel is given correctly, and compare it with Plate 21, Fig. 3; in both cases the conditions are the same, yet the methods for the bevels are very different. Can both be right? Now, in order for any one having this book to prove whether or not what I have said is true, let him use the blocks as advised in the book in question, fit to the plan and cut to the pitch of tangents, and he will soon discover the "rottenness in

Denmark." In conclusion, if "Bevel" will execute a wreath according to my drawing on Plate 82 of present number, which is suitable to the conditions of Plate 10 of Mr. Gould's work, he will have no trouble in arriving at a satisfactory result.

When a true method is adopted in determining lines for hand-railing, but little trouble arises, but there are so many "quack" works on the art afloat in the country that the young mechanic is liable to be deceived and discouraged at every turn. It was not "Bevel's" dulness to comprehend that caused his failure, but the false teaching and empiricism of the author of "Gould's American Stairbuilder's Guide."

W. H. COOKEN.

ORILLIA, ONT., Aug. 30, 1879.

Editor of the Wood-Worker:

I BECAME so befogged in the early chapters on the "Sectorian System of Hand-Railing," that I got disgusted with myself and the system, and finally gave it up. Have many of your subscribers mastered the method; if so, I would like to know? I was very much interested in Mr. Riddell's "Lessons on Projection," but there are some things in them that I do not understand. On page 140 there is a method described by him for getting out wreath-pieces, but I utterly failed to discover how the upper end is connected with the rise, and also to find the long diameter. I failed also to find where the angle of long diameter is located. Neither can I see how the short diameter is obtained, or how the angles from lower end to top of rail are described. While I would be glad to have these "points" fully explained, I acknowledge I have no claims either on you or Mr. Riddell to furnish me or other subscribers with brains. It seems to me that possibly Mr. Riddell has supposed the reader to have some knowledge of the subject in question, or that his lessons are so simple that but little explanation is thought necessary. I have copied, cut, and folded the lesson referred to, as directed, but still fail to thoroughly comprehend. If not asking too much, will you kindly give "more light" on the subject?

P. S.

FULTON, N. Y., Oct. 6, 1879.

Intercommunication.

THIS department is intended to furnish, for the benefit of all our readers, practical information regarding the art of manipulating wood by hand or machinery, and we trust that every reader of our paper will make the fullest use of it, both in asking and answering. All persons possessing additional or more correct information than that which is given relating to the queries published, are cordially invited to forward it to us for publication. All questions will be numbered, and in replying it will be absolutely necessary, in order to secure due insertion, that the NUMBER and TITLE of the question answered should be given; and in sending questions, the title of key-words of the question should be placed at the head of the paper. Correspondents should in all cases send their addresses, not necessa-